

ALDEN HOUSE

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, June 20, 1974



Room in John Alden House.

The Alden House is of great historical significance, yet there are many in town who may not even be aware of its existence.

In 1627, John and Priscilla Mullins Alden received a grant of land in Duxbury. They lived there during the farming season, returning to Plymouth for Sunday worship and the winter season.

In 1632, with the gathering of the church in Duxbury by Elder William Brewster, permanent settlement in Duxbury was established. The present John Alden House was built in 1653 by their third son, Jonathan. John and Priscilla spent their later years with their son, and John died here in his 89th year. He was the last survivor of the signers of the Mayflower Compact.

In 1960, Roland Robbins, an archaeologist, excavated the site of the original Duxbury house, located near the site of the proposed town swimming pool. He found that the dimensions of the foundation corresponded exactly with those of the rear portion of Jonathan's house. It is assumed, therefore, that the old house was added to the present building as the kitchen, burning room and buttry.

In 1901, the Alden Kindred of America came into existence. In 1908, the Alden House property was acquired, after having

remained in the Alden family for 9 generations. The house has been beautifully restored and its furnishings all predate 1810. Some are much older.

The Alden Kindred urged all residents of Duxbury and surrounding towns to visit this historic gem often and bring their friends and family with them. The activities of the Alden Kindred, a nonprofit organization, are supported almost entirely by the nominal fees obtained by visitors and by membership dues.

Descendents of John and Priscilla who may be interested in joining the Alden Kindred of America may inquire at the house or by contacting Mrs. Phillip Randall, Box 1550, Duxbury.

Ellen 934-5896 Richard 934-6094

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